

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL722889171US

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Continuation-in-Part Application Of:

Applicants: William M. Sugden, et al.  
Serial No.: 08/968,239  
Filed: November 12, 1997  
For: INHIBITION OF VIRAL GENE ACTIVITIES  
Group Art Unit: 1648  
Examiner: U. Winkler

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified case, please  
cancel all claims and insert the following new claims:

15. (New Claim) A method of screening viral  
replication inhibitors and viral transcription inhibitors  
comprising:

(a) adding a candidate molecule to a mammalian  
cell culture;

(b) providing a control mammalian cell culture  
without the candidate molecule, wherein the cell cultures  
of both (a) and (b) comprise viral looping/linking  
factors and nucleic acid molecules comprising at least  
two binding sites for the factors, whereby an operable  
factor will link the sites;

(c) allowing said candidate molecule to  
interact with the viral looping/linking factor present in  
the mammalian cell culture of step (a); and

(d) analyzing the factor for inhibition by the  
candidate molecule and comparing the result to the

Sub B1

a.